

## **Title: NYS Field Crops Weekly Pest Report- Evaluation 2008**

### **Project Leaders:**

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**Cooperators:** Cornell Cooperative Field Crop Extension Educators and Faculty

**Type of project:** Public Education

**Project location:** New York State

### **Abstract**

The NYS Field Crop Weekly Pest Report provides timely pest information to field crop extension educators and agricultural professionals. The report compiles weekly pest and crop observations collected by field crop extension personnel across NYS. In addition, the weekly report provides a vehicle to disseminate other relevant IPM information such as pest identification, scouting techniques and a calendar with suggestions for pest management activities. The pest report is distributed to clientele via the Cornell In-house Field Crops List Serve and Cornell Field Crop List Serve. The audiences that subscribe to these list-servers include: Extension Educators, crop consultants, growers, agribusiness, and Cornell University Faculty. Twenty three issues of the NYS Weekly Pest Report were published in 2008. Extension Educators and crop consultants utilize the Weekly Report as an overview of timely pest information, and have found the report useful in alerting their local clientele regarding pest management issues. About 200 people receive the pest report as an email from our Cornell University based list server. Many of the articles from the report were used in extension newsletters that reached at least 14,000 people.

### **Background and Justification**

The NYS IPM Field Crops Pest Report is designed to inform Extension Educators and crop consultants on items of immediate pest management concern and provide a convenient news summary which can also be used in an outreach multiplier capacity with their clientele. Extension Educators and crop consultants are responsible for providing their clientele with timely information to help enhance crop and pest management decisions. The weekly report is written to provide educational information for Extension Educators to use in their programming, newsletters, list-serves and outreach efforts. They can select the pest information that best fits their county situation and clientele's needs. The report is a compilation of what pests were seen, and the amount and potential significance of their crop infestation that week. The pest report is short, concise and contains links to pest identification photographs and additional management information. Much of the pest alert information is obtained through a weekly conference call with extension educators. This weekly conference call is funded through a grant by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The report, now in its seventh year of publication, was developed by the NYS Livestock and Field Crop IPM Program Team with the involvement of several extension educators and faculty across NYS and was distributed on the Cornell Field Crops In-House and General Field Crop list-servers. These two list-servers include Extension Educators, crop consultants, growers, agribusiness, and Cornell Faculty.

### **Objectives**

1. Provide current pest information to field crop extension educators, crop consultants, growers, agribusiness, and Cornell Faculty on a weekly basis.
2. Evaluate the impacts of the weekly pest report with clientele.

### **Procedures:**

The NYS IPM Program Livestock and Field Crop (LFC) team worked with extension educators to identify timely pest and crop management issues. The LFC team collaborated with Extension Educators and crop consultants from across NYS who shared their local pest and crop observations. The LFC Team prepared the report based on anticipated pest occurrence and feedback on timely field observations. Many of these field observations are communicated by extension educators once a week with a conference call to the LFC Team. The report used a concise newsletter format and targeted educational articles. The LFC Team was responsible for developing, compiling and publishing the Weekly Pest Report. Regular features of the weekly report included a view from the field, weather outlook, soybean rust and soybean aphid update, clipboard checklist, growing degree days and alfalfa weevil life stage predictions, livestock pest updates, and articles that highlight critical pest issues of the week. Photographs and internet links to identification pictures and in-depth management practices were provided within articles where possible.

The information was formatted into the weekly report and shared with clientele via two Cornell field crop list servers: In-house Cornell Field Crops list-serve and the General Cornell Field Crops list serve, The weekly report was also posted to the NYS IPM Program website at: <http://nysipm.cornell.edu/fieldcrops/tag/pestrpt/pestrpt08/default.asp>

At the completion of the growing season, Cornell extension personnel and field crop consultants were invited to complete a survey to evaluate usefulness and the potential impact of the 2008 NYS Field Crop Weekly Pest Report. The evaluation survey was conducted electronically via the In-house Cornell Field Crops Staff list-server and the General Cornell Field Crops list-server.

### **Results and Discussion:**

The report addressed a wide variety of field crop insects, plant diseases, weeds, and vertebrate pests of concern this past season.

An index of 2008 Weekly Field Crop Pest Report topics is available at: <http://nysipm.cornell.edu/fieldcrops/tag/pestrpt/pestrpt08/default.asp>

The following tables summarize the topics that were presented in the weekly pest report:

**Table 1: Insect Pest Topics**

<i>Insect Pests</i>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Field Corn</b>	<b>Canola</b>	<b>Clover</b>
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Alfalfa Snout Beetle	<b>X</b>					
Alfalfa Weevil	<b>X</b>					
Aphids			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Armyworms			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Black Cutworm	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Cabbage Seedpod Weevil					<b>X</b>	
Cereal Leaf Beetle			<b>X</b>			
Clover Leaf Weevil	<b>X</b>					<b>X</b>
Clover-root curculio	<b>X</b>					<b>X</b>
Clover Stem Weevil	<b>X</b>					<b>X</b>
Common stalk borer				<b>X</b>		
Corn Rootworm				<b>X</b>		
Crucifer Flea Beetle					<b>X</b>	
European Corn Borer				<b>X</b>		
Hessian Fly			<b>X</b>			
Japanese beetle		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		
Potato leafhopper	<b>X</b>					
Seed Corn Maggot		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		
Soybean Aphids		<b>X</b>				
Spider Mites		<b>X</b>				
Stored Grain Pests		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Striped Flea Beetle					<b>X</b>	
Tarnished Plant Bug	<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>	
Wireworms		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		
White Grubs			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		

**Table 2: Plant Disease Topics**

<i>Plant Diseases</i>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Field Corn</b>	<b>Canola</b>
Anthracnose	X	X		X	
Anthracnose Stalk Rot				X	
Bacterial blight		X			
Bacterial pustule		X			
Brown spot (Septoria leaf spot)		X			
Blackleg- <i>Leptosphaeria maculans</i>					X
Cercospora leaf blight		X			
Cladosporium ear and kernel rot				X	
Common Rust				X	
Common smut				X	
Crown rots	X				
Diplodia ear rot				X	
Diplodia stalk rot				X	
Downy mildew	X	X	X		
Eyespot root rot			X		
Fusarium ear rot				X	
Fusarium head blight			X		
Fusarium stalk rot				X	
Fusarium wilt	X				
Frogeye leaf spot		X			
Gibberella ear rot				X	
Gibberella stalk rot				X	
Glume Blotch			X		
Leaf & stem rust		X	X		
Leaf Spots	X				
Leptosphaerulina Leaf Spot	X				
Northern Leaf Spot			X		
Penicillium ear rot or blue eye				X	
Phoma			X		
Phytophthora root rot	X				
Purple sheath spot			X		
Powdery mildew	X		X		
Pythium	X				
Pythium stalk rot				X	
Rhizoctonia	X		X		X
Sclerotinia crown and stem rot	X				X
<i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i>	X	X			
Seed Decay		X	X	X	
Seedling Blights		X	X	X	

<i>Septoria tritici blotch</i>			X		
Snow Mold			X		
Soil borne mosaic virus			X		
Soybean rust		X			
<b>Plant Diseases (continued)</b>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Field Corn</b>	<b>Canola</b>
Spring Black Stem	X				
<i>Stagonospora nodorum blotch</i>			X		
Straw Breaker			X		
Stored Grain Pests		X	X	X	
Verticillium wilt	X				
Wheat rust			X		
Wheat spindle streak mosaic virus			X		
White Mold	X	X			X
Yellow dwarf virus			X		

**Table 3: Weed Topics**

<b>Weeds and Information</b>	<b>General Weeds</b>	<b>Field Corn</b>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Livestock</b>	<b>Wheat</b>
“New” Corn Herbicides for 2008	X	X			
Do weeds indicate insect pests present?	X	X			
White Cockle	X		X		
Think Weeds in the Fall!	X	X	X		
Invasive species and Plants affecting Livestock	X	X		X	
Fall Weed Management in Winter Wheat	X	X			X

**Table 4: Other Pest Information Reported**

<b>Vertebrate Pests</b>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Field Corn</b>
Birds-Field and Stored Grain		X	X	X
Deer				X
Mice-Stored Grain		X	X	X
<b>Biological Control Agents</b>				
Damsel bugs	X	X	X	X
Green lacewings	X	X	X	
Ground Beetles				
Lady Beetles	X	X	X	X
Parasitoids	X	X	X	X

Syrphid flies	X	X	X	X
<i>Zoophthora phytonomi</i> -Fungi	X			
<b>Livestock Pests</b>	<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Confinement</b>		
Dung Beetles	X			
Face Fly	X			
Horn Fly	X	X		
House Fly		X		
Stable Fly	X	X		
Invasive species and Plants affecting Livestock	X			
<b>Other</b>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Field Corn</b>
Checking Plant Populations	X	X	X	X
Keeping Records	X	X	X	X

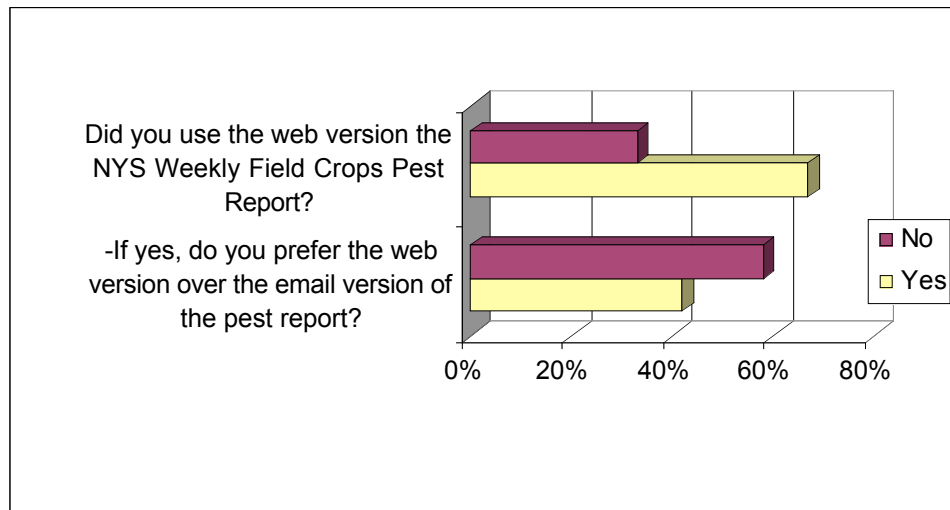
### Weekly Report Evaluation:

To obtain feedback on the effectiveness of the weekly pest report our users were invited to respond to a survey questionnaire. Questions on the questionnaire ranged from “How useful was the pest report?” to “What did you like the most about it?” The Weekly Report Evaluation Survey questionnaire is presented in Appendix 1. Fourteen individuals returned completed surveys via email. Survey responses were very positive indicating satisfaction with the Report’s content, format, timeliness, and usefulness as a source of valuable subject matter information for use in additional outreach situations. The following tables and figures summarize responses to survey questions:

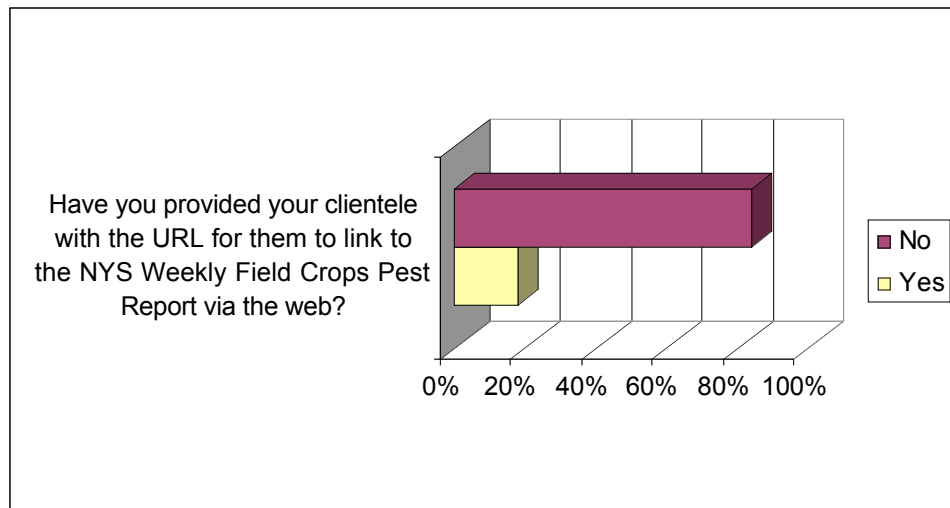
**Table 5: Responses to “We are interested in your assessment of the usefulness of the following topic items that regularly appeared in the Field Crops IPM Weekly Pest Report.”**

	<b>Very Useful</b>	<b>Somewhat Useful</b>	<b>Not Useful</b>
<b>The NYS 2008 Weekly Field Crops Pest Report was:</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>View from the field</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Weather Outlook</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Weekly featured article(s)</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Pest Images / Photographs</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Soybean Rust Update</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Clipboard Checklist</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Internet Links</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>

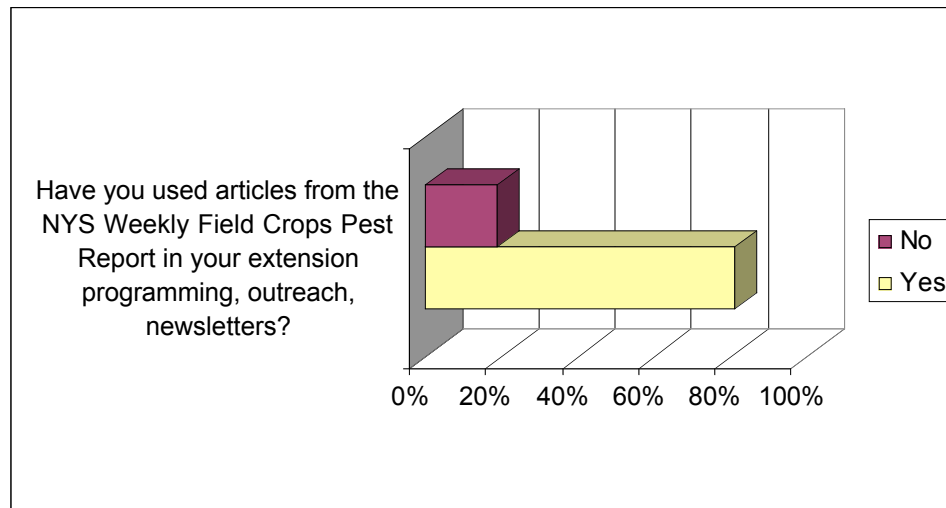
**Figure 1: Did you use the web version the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report?**



**Figure 2: Have you provided your clientele with the URL for them to link to the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report via the web?**



**Figure 3: Have you used articles from the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report in your extension programming, outreach, newsletters?**



The pest report articles were used in extension newsletters that reached 14,000 people in NYS on a regular basis throughout the growing season. The IPM information in the pest report was used in many different ways in addition to extension newsletters. These included: field meetings with growers, one on one contact with growers, forwarded emails to growers and agribusiness personnel, personal knowledge of what pest problems are occurring in NYS with extension educators and crop advisors, and providing a direct internet link from agricultural related websites to the pest report.

**Table 6: Selected comments to: “What did you like the most about the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report?”**

- The “clipboard checklist”
- Photos, the fact that it's local (NYS) information, and that it's up-to-date. Also I like the occasional in-depth discussion of a hot topic.
- View from the field
- The timeliness of the information.
- The clipboard checklist was very helpful to me, especially as something that was easily understandable and could be directly passed onto clients who wished to learn IPM procedures themselves. The articles were great - they always keyed me onto something to which I should have been paying attention.
- The timeliness and clear writing. Photos were also very helpful. Weather forecast also helpful
- It is a consistent publication throughout the season that reminds us of things to look for as well as relatively current updates, IPM-wise, from around the state.
- Timely field reports of pest problems. Articles on timely subjects. Link to NEWA.
- Real-time observations from other folks in the field
- Concise reports on the specific crops.
- photos of pests, GDD numbers
- Timely information
- The current information that is in the newsletter
- Information was very timely. The articles are short and concise



**Table 7: Comments to: “What did you like the least about the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report?”**

- Sometimes publication date was not consistent week to week and the report would not get read
- I get 4 copies every time
- If length gets too long as an email, it becomes cumbersome to scroll through and speed-read.
- Didn't always have time to read it as soon as it was sent - But that is a good thing and I could always go back and pick up the info as needed.
- The "View from the Field" section was never very informative for my particular area. I do not think it is unnecessary or poorly done - it is the only thing that I can point out that may have been a flaw.
- There isn't anything that I would change
- Redundancy in materials. Shouldn't publish the same material in subsequent issues.

**Table 8: Comments to: “Have you used information from the NYS IPM Weekly Field Crops Pest Report in your extension programming and outreach (other than in newsletters)?”**

- Two soybean field meetings that I put on this year
- yes, winter meetings
- Without citing specifics I know that I use information gleaned from the report during phone and in person conversations with farmers
- I have used some of the articles as training and source materials for our summer scouts and technicians.
- Pesticide applicator training.
- It is very easy to refer back to the information when speaking with clientele to let them know what is happening on a regional or state level
- Used in mostly with farm visits

**Table 9: Comments to: “Do you have any comments or suggestions to improve next season's NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report to better suit your field crop IPM needs and those of your clientele?”**

- Consistent timing of the weekly release preferably close to mid week.
- Photos are great, but should be kept to a minimum. So that the e-mail does not get too big/hard to read
- I think you should get your newsletter on the Purdue Chat N' Chew CAFE list.
- Keep giving weekly updates and suggestions about what to look for in the coming weeks.
- It is quite good. A broader readership may appreciate organic recommendations.
- I can not think of anything to improve it. A written copy mailed directly to my farmers would help. Have you considered a weekly column in Country Folks?

The Weekly Pest Report enhances our educational outreach by sharing information with extension personnel, crop advisors, and other agriculture professionals who multiply outreach

through their direct contact with growers. Clientele feedback provides information useful to maintaining the focus and effectiveness of this publication.

This years posting of the Weekly Pest Report to the General and In-house Cornell Field Crops list serves and the web is in response to suggestions made in last years program evaluation.

We added a new aspect to the pest report this year. Keith Waldron and Dr. Russ Hahn received a grant from CCE to conduct conference calls once a week to discuss timely pest issues extension educators had observed. This enhanced the pest report this year with statewide timely pest information.

### **Summary**

Twenty three NYS Weekly Pest Reports were published in 2008. Extension Educators and crop consultants utilized the Weekly Report as an overview of timely pest information, and have found the report useful in alerting their local clientele regarding pest management issues. About 200 people received the pest report as an email from our two Cornell University based list servers. Many of the articles from the report were used in extension newsletters that reached at least 14,000 people. We are reaching many growers with critical pest information and alerts weekly in NYS both through extension educators and crop consultants. Currently, we disseminate IPM information through Extension Educators and other multipliers such as crop consultants.

The weekly report has been an effective means to share timely Livestock and Field Crop IPM information with clientele including extension personnel, consultant, growers, and others in the agriculture community. We have been pleased with the positive feedback received from clientele through our end of season survey, the use of articles in county extension publications and the ease of access afforded by the report being available on the world wide web.

### **Samples of materials:**

A link to archived NYS IPM Field Crops Pest Reports is available on-line at:

<http://nysipm.cornell.edu/fieldcrops/tag/pestrpt/default.asp>

**Key Words:** alfalfa, field corn, small grains, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa snout beetle, alfalfa weevil, armyworms, black cutworms, common stalk borer, corn rootworm, crown diseases, European corn borer, grubs (white grubs), Japanese beetles, leaf diseases, mites, pod diseases, potato leafhopper, potato stem borer, root diseases, seedcorn maggot, slugs, soybean aphid, stalk diseases, stem diseases, weeds, wireworms, biological control, chemical control, cultural control, demonstration/implementation (TAg), economic analysis, monitoring, research & education

## Appendix 1: NYS IPM Field Crops Pest Report Survey 2008

Your input on the effectiveness of the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report is important to us. By providing your perspective you can help us design the report to better fit your extension needs in the future. Please take a minute to complete the following survey questionnaire. Indicate your answer by placing an "X" on the line or a response to the specific questions about the 2008 Weekly NYS Field Crops Pest Report. *Thanks for your help!*

1. The NYS 2008 Weekly Field Crops Pest Report was:

Very Useful \_\_\_\_\_ Somewhat Useful \_\_\_\_\_ Not Useful \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did you like the most about the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report?

3. What did you like the least about the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report?

4. We are interested in your assessment of the usefulness of the following topic items that regularly appeared in the Field Crops IPM Weekly Pest Report.

Featured Articles / Topics	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Useful
View from the field			
Weather Outlook			
Weekly featured article(s)			
Pest Images / Photographs			
Soybean Rust Update			
Livestock IPM information			
Growing Degree Days in NYS			
Clipboard Checklist			

Comments:

5. The Internet links provided in the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report to additional information and identification pictures about specific pests were:

Very Helpful \_\_\_\_\_ Somewhat Helpful \_\_\_\_\_ Not Helpful \_\_\_\_\_

6. Did you use the web version the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

-If yes, do you prefer the web version over the email version of the pest report? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you provided your clientele with the URL for them to link to the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report via the web?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you used articles from the NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report in your newsletters?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

-If yes, please indicate the name of the newsletter and the number of people that are targeted to receive it.

9. Have you used information from the NYS IPM Weekly Field Crops Pest Report in your extension programming and outreach (*other* than in newsletters)?

- If yes, please explain (For example, information was useful at an on-farm meeting, or farm visit; or information was useful for scout training, etc.)

10. Do you have any comments or suggestions to improve next season's NYS Weekly Field Crops Pest Report to better suit your field crop IPM needs and those of your clientele?

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to complete this evaluation

*Your input is greatly appreciated!*